

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

- 1                   1.       An endotracheal tube comprising:
  - 2                   a)       a tubular member including a distal end and a proximal end; and
  - 3                   b)       a plurality of visually distinct regions at a proximal portion of the
  - 4       tubular member, wherein each of the distinct regions comprises a respectively different color.
- 1                   2.       The endotracheal tube of claim 1 further comprising:
  - 2                   c)       an adapter coupled to the proximal end.
- 1                   3.       The endotracheal tube of claim 1 wherein the plurality of visually
- 2       distinct regions comprises at least three visually distinct regions.
- 1                   4.       The endotracheal tube of claim 1 wherein each of the plurality of
- 2       visually distinct regions comprise at least one color selected from the group consisting of
- 3       blue, red, green, orange, yellow, and brown.
- 1                   5.       The endotracheal tube of claim 1 wherein the endotracheal tube is
- 2       adapted for use with an infant or a premature infant.
- 1                   6.       The endotracheal tube of claim 1 wherein the tubular member has a
- 2       length less than about 20 centimeters.
- 1                   7.       The endotracheal tube of claim 1 wherein the plurality of visually
- 2       distinct regions comprises a plurality of different colored lines, each line representing a
- 3       different endotracheal tube insertion depth for patients of different weight.
- 1                   8.       The endotracheal tube of claim 1 wherein the plurality of visually
- 2       distinct regions includes a first distinct region spaced about 6.5-7.0 cm from the distal end, a
- 3       second distinct region spaced about 7.5-8.0 cm from the distal end, and a third distinct region
- 4       spaced about 8.5-9.0 cm from the distal end.

1                    9.        The endotracheal tube of claim 1 wherein the plurality of visually  
2 distinct regions includes a first distinct region spaced about 6.5-7.0 cm from the distal end, a  
3 second distinct region spaced about 7.5-8.0 cm from the distal end, a third distinct region  
4 spaced about 8.5-9.0 cm from the distal end, and a fourth distinct region spaced about  
5 9.5-10.0 cm from the distal end.  
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1                    10.      The endotracheal tube of claim 1 wherein the plurality of visually  
2 distinct regions includes a first distinct region spaced about 6.5 cm from the distal end, a  
3 second distinct region spaced about 7.5 cm from the distal end, a third distinct region spaced  
4 about 8.5 cm from the distal end, and a fourth distinct region spaced about 9.5 cm from the  
5 distal end.

1                    11.      The endotracheal tube of claim 1 further comprising a safety marking  
2 closer to the distal end than the proximal end, wherein the safety marking is adapted for  
3 alignment adjacent to a patient's vocal cords.

1                    12.      A method of inserting an endotracheal tube in a patient, the method  
2 comprising:

3                    a)        obtaining an endotracheal tube comprising a tubular member including  
4 a distal end and a proximal end, and a plurality of visually distinct regions at a proximal  
5 portion of the tubular member, wherein each of the distinct regions comprises a respectively  
6 different color;

7                    b)        inserting the distal end of the endotracheal tube into a patient; and

8                    c)        aligning one visually distinct region of the visually distinct regions  
9 with an anatomical structure of the patient.

1                    13.      The method of claim 12 further comprising:

2                    d)        securing the endotracheal tube to the patient after c).

1                    14.      The method of claim 12 further comprising

2                    d)        securing the endotracheal tube to the patient using tape after c).

1                    15.      The method of claim 12 further comprising:

2                    d)        selecting one visually distinct region prior to b).

- 1                    16.     The method of claim 12 further comprising:  
2                    d)     determining a weight for the patient; and  
3                    e)     using the determined weight for the patient to select the one visually  
4                    distinct region,  
5                    wherein d) and e) are performed before b).
- 1                    17.     The method of claim 12 wherein the patient is an infant.
- 1                    18.     The method of claim 12 wherein the patient is a premature infant.
- 1                    19.     The method of claim 12 wherein the plurality of visually distinct  
2 regions comprises at least about three visually distinct regions.
- 1                    20.     The method of claim 12 wherein each of the plurality of visually  
2 distinct regions comprise at least one color selected from the group consisting of blue, red,  
3 green, orange, yellow, and brown.
- 1                    21.     The method of claim 12 wherein the plurality of visually distinct  
2 regions includes a first distinct region spaced about 6.5-7.0 cm from the distal end, a second  
3 distinct region spaced about 7.5-8.0 cm from the distal end, a third distinct region spaced  
4 about 8.5-9.0 cm from the distal end, and a fourth distinct region spaced about 9.5-10.0 cm  
5 from the distal end.
- 1                    22.     The method of claim 12 further comprising a safety marking closer to  
2 the distal end than the proximal end, wherein the safety marking is adapted for alignment  
3 with the patient's vocal cords.

1                    23.     A method of inserting an endotracheal tube in a patient, the method  
2 comprising:  
3                    a)       obtaining an endotracheal tube comprising a tubular member including  
4 a distal end and a proximal end, and a plurality of visually distinct regions at a proximal  
5 portion of the tubular member, wherein each visually distinct region is spaced from other  
6 visually distinct regions;  
7                    b)       inserting the distal end of the endotracheal tube into a patient;  
8                    c)       aligning one visually distinct region of the visually distinct regions  
9 with the upper gingival ridge of the patient; and  
10                   d)       securing the endotracheal tube to the patient so that the one visually  
11 distinct region is localized with respect to the upper gingival ridge.

1                    24.     The method of claim 23 wherein the plurality of visually distinct  
2 regions comprises a plurality of lines with respectively different colors.